

II. DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR FY 2006-07 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES

A. Agency Section/Code/Name:

B. Priority No. __3__ of __4__

C. (1) Title:

Aid to County Libraries

(2) Summary Description:

To increase State Aid to County Libraries minimum grants to \$50,000 per county using the 2000 census.

(3) Strategic Goal/Action Plan (*if applicable*):

Strategic Goal 2 (Provide statewide programs to support local library services)

Agency proposes to increase State Aid to the least populated, and less well-funded county libraries, by increasing the minimum grant amount from \$40,000 to \$50,000. While the majority of libraries benefited greatly from the increase in per capita support enacted during the past legislative session, the smallest counties actually received less money: the minimum grants did not increase, and lottery funds were not re-authorized.

D. Budget Program Number and Name: Library Development / 35 01 00 00

E. Agency Activity Number and Name: 875/ Pass Through

F. Detailed Justification for Funding

(1) Justification for Funding Increase:

In FY06, the State Library and its supporters were successful in securing a General Assembly increase in State Aid to County Libraries of \$2 per capita, with a minimum grant of \$40,000 per county. The increased State Aid support was coupled with the removal of lottery fund distribution. In thirty-five of the forty-six counties, the increase in per capita support more than made up for the loss of Lottery Funds. However, in South Carolina's eleven smallest counties, the loss of Lottery Funds negatively impacted

local library budgets. These libraries ended up with less state funds than the previous year. The eleven counties to benefit from a mandated increase in the minimum grant are: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Edgefield, Fairfield, Hampton, Jasper, Lee, McCormick, and Saluda. This increase in minimum grants would help restore a level playing field and restore funds which were lost due to unintended consequences of the increase in per capita support.

This increase in state funding will allow these poorest public libraries to provide:

- Programs that instill in children the lifelong desire to read and learn
- New parents with information on the importance of reading to their babies, and with basic information on parenting skills
- Resources for child care centers
- A safe environment for children to learn
- Valuable support to the business community for support of local economic development
- Consumer health information for a healthier South Carolina

The \$110,000 requested through this proposal will ensure that all county libraries can provide not only basic library services, but the best library services to the communities they serve.

(2)

FY 2006-07 Cost Estimates:	State Non-Recurring Funds	State Recurring Funds	Federal	Other	Total
Personnel:					
(a) Number of FTEs*					0.00
(b) Salary					\$ 0
(c) Fringe Benefits					\$ 0
Program/Case Services					\$ 0
Pass-Through Funds		110,000			\$110,000
Other Operating Expenses					\$ 0
Total	\$ 0	\$110,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$110,000

** If new FTEs are needed, please complete Section F (Detailed Justification for FTEs) below.*

(3) Base Appropriation:

State	\$ 8,079,638
Federal	\$ 620,000
Other	\$ 100,000

(4) Is this priority associated with a Capital Budget Priority? N/A If so, state Capital Budget Priority Number and Project Name: _____.

G. Detailed Justification for FTEs

(1) Justification for New FTEs

(a) Justification: N/A

(b) Future Impact on Operating Expenses or Facility Requirements: N/A

(2) Position Details:

	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
Position Title:					
(a) Number of FTEs					0.00
(b) Salary					\$ 0
(c) Fringe Benefits					\$ 0

	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
Position Title:					
(a) Number of FTEs					0.00
(b) Salary					\$ 0
(c) Fringe Benefits					\$ 0

(3) FTEs in Program Area per FY 2005-06 Appropriation Act:

State	___3___
Federal	___3___
Other	___0___

Agency-wide Vacant FTEs as of August 20, 2005: _____6_____

% Vacant ___12_____%

H. Other Comments:

An “unintended consequence” of the improvement in state aid resulted in a net loss of support funding for South Carolina’s poorest and smallest population county libraries. Raising the minimum grant will help in restoring funds that were lost this past year, and remove the negative impact felt by those libraries.